

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus
~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~

clock generating means for generating a dot clock as a basis
of each pixel forming an image;

5 image printing means for printing a one-line image in a main
scanning direction in accordance with image data with reference
to the dot clock output from said clock generating means, and for
printing a one-page image by repeating, in a sub-scanning
direction, the one-line image printing performed in the main
10 scanning direction; and

a clock control section which changeably controls a
frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the
main scanning direction;

wherein said clock control section controls ~~even the a~~
15 number of pixels of one line in the main scanning direction in a
case in which the frequency of the dot clock is changed during
scanning of the one line to be equal to that a number of pixels
of one line in the main scanning direction in a case in which the
frequency of the dot clock is not changed during scanning of the
20 one line.

3. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus
according to claim 1, comprising:

clock generating means for generating a dot clock as a basis
of each pixel forming an image;

5 image printing means for printing a one-line image in a main
scanning direction in accordance with image data with reference
to the dot clock output from said clock generating means, and for
printing a one-page image by repeating, in a sub-scanning
direction, the one-line image printing performed in the main
10 scanning direction; and

a clock control section which changeably controls a
frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the
main scanning direction;

wherein said clock control section changes the frequency of
15 the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning
direction based on ~~the basis of~~ a plurality of partial
main-scanning offsets in a test image printed by said image
printing apparatus in accordance with test image data.

4. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises
comprising:

5 clock generating means for generating a dot clock as a basis
of each pixel forming an image;

image printing means for printing a one-line image in a main scanning direction in accordance with image data with reference to the dot clock output from said clock generating means, and for printing a one-page image by repeating, in a sub-scanning direction, the one-line image printing performed in the main scanning direction;

a clock control section which changeably controls a frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction; and

offset setting means for setting at least two offsets between distances between test patterns in test images printed by said image printing apparatus in accordance with test image data having test patterns arranged at at least three positions in the main scanning direction and reference distances between comparative test patterns; ~~and~~

wherein said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction based on ~~the basis of~~ the respective offsets set by said offset setting means.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock to evenly distribute the offsets to the respective pixels between the test patterns so as to eliminate the offsets.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4,
~~wherein said apparatus comprises~~ further comprising:

test ~~patter~~ pattern interval detecting means for computing
distances between the test patterns in the test images by
5 detecting positions of the test patterns; [[,]] and

offset computing means for computing offsets between the
distances between the test patterns which are computed by said
test pattern interval detecting means and the reference distances
between the comparative test patterns, ~~and~~

10 wherein at least two offsets computed by said offset
computing means are set by said offset setting means.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein the reference distances are distances between
the test patterns in the test image data.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein said image printing apparatus prints images on
two surfaces of an image recording sheet, and said clock control
section changes the frequency of the dot clock when an image is
5 printed on one surface of the image recording sheet or images are
printed on the two surfaces.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the reference distances are distances between the test patterns in the test image data or distances between test patterns in test image data printed on a reverse surface of an image recording sheet when the frequency of the dot clock is changed in printing an image on an obverse surface of the image recording sheet, or the reference distances are distances between the test patterns in the test image data or distances between test patterns in test image data printed on the obverse surface of the image recording sheet when the frequency of the dot clock is changed in printing an image on the reverse surface of the image recording sheet.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said image printing apparatus prints an image by superimposing an image formed in a first color and an image formed in a second color different from the first color, and said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock when one or both of images in the first and second colors are to be printed.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the reference distances are distances between the test patterns in the test image data or distances between test patterns in test image data printed in the second color when

5 the frequency of the dot clock is changed in printing an image in
the first color, or the reference distances are distances between
the test patterns in the test image data or distances between
test patterns in test image data printed in the first color when
the frequency of the dot clock is changed in printing an image in
10 the second color.

12. (Currently Amended) An image printing apparatus
~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:
clock generating means for generating a dot clock as a basis
of each pixel forming an image;
5 image printing means for printing a one-line image in a main
scanning direction in accordance with image data with reference
to the dot clock output from said clock generating means, and for
printing a one-page image by repeating, in a sub-scanning
direction, the one-line image printing performed in the main
10 scanning direction; and
a clock control section which changeably controls a
frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the
main scanning direction;

15 wherein said clock generating section comprises a
fundamental clock generating section which generates a
fundamental clock having a predetermined frequency, and a
frequency changing section which ~~can~~ is adapted to change the

frequency of the fundamental clock generated by said fundamental clock generating section; [[,]] and

20 wherein said clock control section changes a frequency of a fundamental clock output from said frequency changing section during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said frequency changing section ~~has~~ includes a delay line which generates delay clocks by digitally delaying the fundamental clock, and said clock control section changes the
5 frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction by selecting a predetermined delay clock from the delay line.

Claims 14-20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction based on ~~the basis of~~ a plurality of partial
5 main-scanning offsets in a test image printed by said image printing apparatus in accordance with test image data.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2,
~~wherein said apparatus further comprises~~ further comprising
offset setting means for setting at least two offsets between
distances between test patterns in test images printed by said
5 image printing apparatus in accordance with test image data
having test patterns arranged at at least three positions in the
main scanning direction and reference distances between
comparative test patterns, and

wherein said clock control section changes the frequency of
10 the dot clock during scanning of one line in the main scanning
direction based on ~~the basis of~~ the respective offsets set by
said offset setting means.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to
claim 22, wherein said clock control section changes the
frequency of the dot clock to evenly distribute the offsets to
the respective pixels between the test patterns so as to
eliminate the offsets.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5,
~~wherein said apparatus comprises~~ further comprising:

test ~~patter~~ pattern interval detecting means for computing
distances between the test patterns in the test images by
5 detecting positions of the test patterns; [[,]] and

offset computing means for computing offsets between the distances between the test patterns which are computed by said test pattern interval detecting means and the reference distances between the comparative test patterns, and

10 wherein at least two offsets computed by said offset computing means are set by said offset setting means.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the reference distances are distances between the test patterns in the test image data.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the reference distances are distances between the test patterns in the test image data.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image printing apparatus prints images on two surfaces of an image recording sheet, and said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock when an image is
5 printed on one surface of the image recording sheet or images are printed on the two surfaces.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image printing apparatus prints images on

two surfaces of an image recording sheet, and said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock when an image is printed on one surface of the image recording sheet or images are printed on the two surfaces.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said image printing apparatus prints an image by superimposing an image formed in a first color and an image formed in a second color different from the first color, and said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock when one or both of images in the first and second colors are to be printed.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image printing apparatus prints an image by superimposing an image formed in a first color and an image formed in a second color different from the first color, and said clock control section changes the frequency of the dot clock when one or both of images in the first and second colors are to be printed.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said clock generating section comprises a fundamental clock generating section which generates a fundamental clock

having a predetermined frequency, and a frequency changing
5 section which ~~can~~ is adapted to change the frequency of the
fundamental clock generated by said fundamental clock generating
section; [[,]] and

wherein said clock control section changes a frequency of a
fundamental clock output from said frequency changing section
10 during scanning of one line in the main scanning direction.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 31,
wherein said frequency changing section ~~has~~ includes a delay line
which generates delay clocks by digitally delaying the
fundamental clock, and said clock control section changes the
5 frequency of the dot clock during scanning of one line in the
main scanning direction by selecting a predetermined delay clock
from the delay line.